

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8158

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: SOVIET "INFORMATION" ON PRC INTERNAL EVENTS

1. AT A TIME WHEN MOST DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS IN PEKING READILY CONFESS TO A DEARTH OF PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE LEADERSHIP STATE OF PLAY, THE EVER-ALERT (AND OFTEN INVENTIVE) SOVIETS HAVE BEEN REGALING ANY WHO WILL LISTEN WITH THE TALES THAT: --POLITBURO MEMBER AND SECURITY CHIEF WANG TUNG-HSING FLEW OFF TO CHANGSHA DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 4 FOR A PRIVATE TET-A-TETE WITH CANTON MR COMMANDER HSU SHIH-YU. THE SOVIETS CLAIM NO INSIDE INFORMATION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE "MEETING." --VICE PREMIER WANG CHEN, DRESSED IN A MILITARY UNIFORM, WAS ON HAND FOR JULY 7 PEKING AIRPORT CEREMONIES MARKING THE RETURN OF FUCHOW MR COMMANDER PI TING-CHUN'S ASHES EVEN THOUGH NCNA DID NOT NOTE HIS PRESENCE WITH THE OTHERS. THE SOVIETS CONTEND THAT WANG IS THUS UNDER SOME SORT OF CLOUD. --THE CHINESE THEMSELVES INVENTED AND SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT POLITBURO MEMBER WEI KUO-CHING WAS UNDER ATTACK IN TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY WALLPOSTERS FOR PERMITTING EXTENDED DISPLAY IN CANTON OF THE POSTER INVIDIOUSLY COMPARING CHINESE LIVING STANDARDS AND PROGRESS WITH THOSE OF JAPAN. (THE RUMOR WAS CURRENT IN PEKING SOME WEEKS AGO ALTHOUGH NO ONE CLAIMED

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FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE TSINGHUA POSTER.)

2. COMMENT: WE FIND THE ABOVE RATHER IMPLAUSIBLE AND REPORT IT SOLELY BECAUSE SIMILAR SOVIET TALES IN THE PAST HAVE VERY OCCASIONALLY OWED MORE TO INTELLIGENCE THAN TO INVENTIVENESS.
DEAN

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